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Pirinsko Delo.

5 GIVEN DEATH SENTENCES
FOR SETTING FIRE TO BLAGOEVGRAD STOREHOUSE

On 28 and 29 December 1951, a trial of terrorists, murderers, and spies, who on 15 December 1951 set fire to the food storehouse of the Rayon Cooperative Union, took place in Blagoevgrad. The trial revealed the subversive plans of the Tito-Kolisevski gang and their Washington and London masters. The organizers and participants in the terrorist groups are "Mikhaylovites" and corrupt elements. Such elements set fire to the "Geo. Milev" Factory, and such persons were tried during November 1951 in Gtse Delchev and Petrich.

One of the accused, Khristo Todorov Katsarski, was a rich iron and machine-oil dealer before 9 September 1944. After the government confiscated his wealth, he became the instigator of an illegal organization for counterrevolutionary activities against the people's government. Ventseslav Petrov Nikolov, organizer of the band, was formerly an active member of the "Brannik" (Defender) Organization. His father, a former follower of Mikhaylov, was tried by a people's court after 9 September 1944 for participating in the persecution of partisans.

The following persons were also active in the terrorist group: Stoyu Khristov Uzunov of Padezh, Blagoevgrad Okoliya, a known fascist; Dimitur Nikolov Spasov of Blagoevgrad, an enemy of the people; Ivan Georgiev Kalenderski, a rebel and the son of a Mikhaylov follower; Tasko Damyanov Kolev, a rebel; and Nikola Iliev Nikolov, Vasil Stoychev Novakov, Stoycho Iliev Stoilkov, and Stoyana V. Petrova, criminals and enemies of the people.

The trials in Blagoevgrad showed that all the criminals and terrorists received aid and orders from the enemies of the people, the imperialists and their Balkan agents, the Tito-Kolisevski gang. V. Petrov Nikolov stated that all the accused planned to escape to Yugoslavia, but that in order to be accepted by the UDB (Yugoslav security police) they were required to hand over Tito intelligence service espionage information, to murder responsible party and administration officials, to set fire to food-storage depots,

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equipment depots of farm workers' cooperatives, and gasoline depots, and to blow up factories and trains. The accused Stoyu Khristov Uzunov, who was the liaison man between the terrorist group and the UDB, stated that these tasks were outlined concretely by the UDB agent Kiril Vlahovski, who entered Bulgaria illegally.

On 29 December 1951, the following were sentenced to death by shooting: Katsarski, Uzunov, V. P. Nikolov, Kalenderski, and Dimitur Spasov Nikolov [sic]. Twenty-year prison terms were given to Stoilkov and Kolev; a 15-year prison term was given to N. I. Nikolov; and Stoyana V. Petrova, was given 3 years in prison. V. P. Nikolov, Spasov, and Kalenderski were required to pay the Blagoevgrad Rayon Cooperative Union 4,666,730 leva.

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